

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 1996

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Moss Landing Harbor District Office

Moss Landing, CA

Conservation Working Group members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Daphne White (Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History/League of Women Voters); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club- Vetanna Chapter); Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); and Joanne Flanders, Pat Cotter, Jane DeLay, and Aaron King (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

I. CWG Administration

Announcements and Other Meeting Dates:

á The date for the next Conservation Working Group meeting has been changed. The new date and time is WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1997 FROM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM AT THE MOSS LANDING HARBOR DISTRICT OFFICE.

á The next Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be Friday, January 17, 1997 at the Big Sur Multi-Agency Facility; agenda topic items will include discussion of the Sanctuary Manager position, a follow-up on the status of the SAC Charter, approval of the SAC protocols, a discussion of the Northern boundary issue, and a presentation by the Manager of the Channel Islands, Ed Cassano on vessel traffic.

á Joanne Flanders was introduced as the new Assistant Manager at the Sanctuary office. Joanne is a NOAA Corps Officer and has been with the agency for 15 years.

II. Sanctuary Office Report

Joanne Flanders gave the Sanctuary office report. Highlights included:

1) Administration:

á NOAA operations is loaning the MBNMS an airplane. It should be here and fully functional by the end of January. The plane will be used for observation, enforcement, and response. CWG members requested that there be a discussion of possible uses of the plane at their next meeting;

á Several Sanctuary staff members attended a conference in Tiburon where they discussed integrating coastal management;

á The MBNMS is considering using space at the Coast Guard office.

2) Status of the Sanctuary Manager's position:

á Stephanie Thornton, Chief of the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD), has decided to re-advertise for the position of the Sanctuary Manager. The new notice is expected to be released to the general public by the end of December. It is hoped that the final selection for MBNMS Manager will be announced early in the new year;

á Rachel will request that the CWG members be invited to sit in on the interviews of final candidates if they are scheduled for the Monterey area;

á CWG members discussed sending a letter expressing their concern about how the selection process was handled and the sudden unexplained change of plans. Members will discuss their suggestions for how the situation could be better handled at the January meeting; in the meanwhile, Rachel will convey the concerns of the working group to the SAC at the meeting on November 22.

3) Rachel briefed CWG members on the October 28, 1996 meeting with Stephanie Thornton, the new Chief of SRD. The main purpose for the meeting was to reach agreement on the authority of the SAC to advise and assist the Sanctuary program. The SAC has spent considerable time in revising its Charter and developing a detailed set of Protocols that were submitted to SRD for discussion and approval. SRD and NOAA attorneys are currently reviewing the documents. SAC members Rachel Saunders, Karin Strasser Kauffman, and Marc Del Piero have been invited to SRD headquarters in December to discuss the issue further.

4) CWG members discussed methods for assisting the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) in gaining much needed support from SRD. Action items included:

á Communicating support for the WQPP to SRD; and,

á Selection of Holly Price, Director of the WQPP, as the recipient for the Conservation Award at the Sanctuary Currents Symposium in March.

### III. Man-made Noise in the MBNMS

Jack Wickham presented his concerns over the potential impact of man-made noise in the MBNMS and his frustrations that action has not yet been taken on the issue. Moreover, Jack identified areas where the current membership of the Research Activity Panel (RAP) was lacking adequate expertise, such as underwater acoustics. CWG members agreed that Andrew De Vogelaere, Research Coordinator for the MBNMS, should be invited to attend the January CWG meeting to present the Sanctuary's research plan, clarify questions about the RAP's membership structure, and discuss how to approach the underwater noise issue.

Among other suggestions, the CWG recommended that an informal workshop on the subject of underwater sound be held and that RAP members be asked to participate, either as sponsors or as speakers. Another suggestion for bringing attention to the issue was to produce a poster for the Sanctuary Currents Symposium in March 1997. Meanwhile, Jack was asked to put together all of his research on underwater sound along with a list of potential RAP members that would be appropriate candidates to address this subject.

### IV. San Francisco Wastewater Outfall, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Review, Patrick Cotter, MBNMS

Patrick Cotter, Environmental Scientist for the MBNMS, presented an update on the San Francisco Wastewater Outfall. A written outline of his presentation was provided to CWG members (Please see Attachment A). Mr. Cotter tracks all of the NPDES permits and offered to send the information to interested working group members on a quarterly basis (Please see Attachment B). Please notify Jane DeLay at (831) 647-4246, if you would like to receive the quarterly information.

Patrick Cotter requested the CWG's assistance in finding information related to the impacts of bacteria and effluent on marine mammals and birds.

## V. Brief Issues Updates, CWG 1997 Mtg. Schedule

á The CWG meeting schedule for 1997 will be discussed at the January meeting.

á The Sea Otter Recovery Plan and a one-page written report will be presented at the January meeting by Ellen Faurot-Daniels;

á The San Mateo Tunnel initiative passed;

á A public hearing for the proposed Monterey Marine Reserve has been scheduled for early February 1997;

á The Sanctuary Currents Symposium is confirmed for March 15, 1997 at the Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz. The conservation community is encouraged to produce a poster for the poster session. The poster must relate to facets of marine biodiversity.

á Announcement: Save Our Shores (SOS) is working with a concert promoter to organize a rock concert in April 1997 at Fort Ord. The concert will be in lieu of SOS participation in the usual Sanctuary Celebrations and will be a fund raiser for SOS programs as well good PR for the MBNMS. Bonnie Rait, Bruce Springsteen, and Joan Baez are the type of performers they hope to feature.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay  
MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator

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